

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-19 (Canceled).

Claim 20 (New): A load carrier for coupling to a vehicle, said load carrier comprising:

a loading frame; and

a supporting arch that extends substantially upwardly from and transversely to said loading frame, said supporting arch being divisible into first and second arch parts, each of which arch parts is pivotally coupled to said loading frame such that, when divided, each of said first and second arch parts is configured to be pivoted down to a storage position lying substantially level with said loading frame,

wherein said arch parts are configured to be interlocked substantially directly to each other into an in-use position, in which said first and said second arch parts substantially alone form said supporting arch.

Claim 21 (New): A load carrier according to claim 20, wherein, when unlocked from said in-use position, said first and second arch parts are substantially immediately pivotable, by a single movement for each, into their respective said storage positions.

Claim 22 (New): A load carrier according to claim 20, wherein said pivotal coupling between said arch parts and said loading frame is configured such that said arch parts, when they are pivoted, are shiftable laterally relative to each other by such a distance that said arch parts are pivotable without giving rise to pivot-blocking contact therebetween.

Claim 23 (New): A load carrier according to claim 22, wherein said lateral shift is implemented automatically when said arch parts are pivoted.

Claim 24 (New): A load carrier according to claim 22, wherein each said arch part is configured to shift laterally away from other arch parts when being pivoted.

Claim 25 (New): A load carrier according to claim 20, wherein said pivotal coupling comprises a cam or groove and follower mechanism.

Claim 26 (New): A load carrier according to claim 20, wherein said pivotal coupling comprises a shaft or tube portion that is rotatable in a sleeve portion, in which arrangement one of its parts defines a groove that interacts with a pin disposed in an other part and which groove has an inclination relative to the longitudinal axis of said pivotal coupling, with an effect that said parts of the shaft/tube and sleeve arrangement shift automatically relative to each other along the longitudinal axis of said pivotal coupling when said associated arch part is pivoted.

Claim 27 (New): A load carrier according to claim 20, wherein, when said arch parts are in their respective said storage positions, said arch parts occupy substantially the same height as said loading frame.

Claim 28 (New): A load carrier according to claim 20, wherein, when said arch parts are in their respective said storage positions, said arch parts lie at least partially on top of said loading frame.

Claim 29 (New): A load carrier according to claim 20, wherein said first arch part and said second arch part are configured to be interlocked directly to each other by closure of a manually operable coupling that comprises a first coupling part integrated with said first arch part and a second coupling part configured to co-operate with said first coupling part and integrated with said second arch part.

Claim 30 (New): A load carrier according to claim 29, wherein said coupling comprises a manually operable quick-release coupling.

Claim 31 (New): A load carrier according to claim 29, wherein said coupling is configured for tool-free locking or unlocking.

Claim 32 (New): A load carrier according to claim 29, wherein said coupling comprises a screw joint.

Claim 33 (New): A load carrier according to claim 32, wherein said screw joint comprises a male portion integrated with one said arch part and a female portion integrated with an other said arch part, said female portion being configured to substantially envelope said male portion when said screw joint is closed.

Claim 34 (New): A load carrier according to claim 32, wherein said screw joint comprises a male portion integrated with one said arch part and a female portion integrated with an other said arch part, and wherein said female portion of said screw joint comprises a hand-grip for manual twist release of said screw joint.

Claim 35 (New): A load carrier according to claim 20, wherein said arch parts and said loading frame comprise hollow and preferably tubular members.

Claim 36 (New): A load carrier according to claim 20, wherein said load carrier comprises a bicycle carrier.

Claim 37 (New): A kit of parts configured to be assembled into a load carrier, the kit of parts comprising:

a loading frame; and

a supporting arch that, when assembled onto said loading frame, extends substantially upwardly from and transversely to said loading frame, said supporting arch comprising divisible first and second arch parts, each of which arch parts is configured to be pivotally coupled to said loading frame such that, when divided, each of said first and second arch parts is configured to pivot down to a storage position lying substantially level with said loading frame,

    said arch parts being configured to be interlocked substantially directly to each other into an in-use position in which said first and said second arch parts substantially alone form said supporting arch.